

December 28, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TWB-204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket No. 05-311

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am a citizen of Goochland County, Virginia. I moved to the county last December and have unsuccessfully attempted to obtain broadband service since that time. I am in the Information Technology business and as such high speed internet service is a necessity for me. Comcast currently has a franchise agreement with Goochland County. That agreement is 14 years old and has outlived its purpose. The agreement calls for the cable provider to provide its service only if there is a density of 30 homes or more per mile. In a county where the minimum land requirement is 5 acres, that provision basically allows the cable provider to pick and choose when and where they will provide their service. They do that picking and choosing based on costs and Return on Investment only.

Fourteen years is a long time, but in this space it is an eternity. When Goochland established its agreement with Continental Cable fourteen years ago only television access was at stake. Today the stakes are a lot higher. The internet has become an integral part of our lives. Telecommuting, on-line banking, on-line purchasing and e-mail have become part of our lives and a requirement to stay abreast of current events. Those of us on dial-up internet, 60% of Goochland County, are two steps behind and falling back. Our children cannot keep up with today's educational demands.

Although the County is negotiating a new agreement with Comcast, I do not believe it will improve the coverage area or the available services. I believe that only free market forces will do this. As such I support the removal of barriers to entry into the MVPD market. I further encourage the Commission to ensure current and future "entry" agreements do not unwittingly deny service to potential subscribers based on income.

Sincerely,

Manuel Alvarez Jr.
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Sandy Hook, VA 23153